

Developing Introductions and Conclusions

1. Ways to develop introductions:

- a. an interesting fact or unusual detail
- b. an intriguing statement
- c. an anecdote
- d. a question your essay will answer
- e. an appropriate quotation as an attention-getter
- f. an illustration
- g. general information on your subject or how you came to choose it
- h. state your thesis

Types of introductions (from Jeff Rackham and Olivia Bertagnolli, From Sight to Insight):

- a. **provocative lead:** catch the reader's attention with an outrageous statement, "Boys are smarter than girls" and then illustrate your position in contrast to this belief (or give reasons why it's true).
- b. **contrast-and-conflict:** establishes the focus by reversing reader's expectations; begin with a common belief and take the opposite position.
- c. **question lead:** most common but most easily misused; pose a question your essay will answer; be sure it is answered in your essay and that it doesn't bring about multiple answers.
- d. **descriptive lead:** illustrates the subject with anecdotes or description of a scene; usually followed with a question, "Is this fair?" that the essay will address.
- e. **cumulative-interest lead:** creates reader's interest by piling up facts or details related to the essay; for example, King's speech might have opened with a series of examples of prejudice that, taken together, illustrate his position that racism is destructive.

2. Ways to Develop Conclusions

- a. Rephrase the thesis and summarize main ideas
- b. Call attention to larger issues
- c. Call for a change in action or attitude
- d. Describe a vivid image that illustrates your point
- e. Connect ideas back to the introduction